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PRESS CONFERENCE BY MR HAYDEN AT THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, LISBON - 7SEPTEMBER 1984.

Q. Mr Hayden, could you define the present position of Australia regarding the question of East Timor. Do you support a solution that guarantees the self-determination of the people of East Timor?

Mr Hayden . I think at this point that it's best not to have dogmatic principles asserted because I think it is possible that a resolution of the issue may be closer. I'm not sure. I certainly have a better understanding of the Portuguese Government's position on this matter as a result of our discussions today and there are further discussions to take place. When I get to New York, to the United Nations General Assembly meeting in a few weeks' time, I aim at talking with Dr Mochtar and the Secretary General of the United Nations on this matter. I believe that if there is going to be any resolution to the problem it will come through initiatives of the Secretary-General of the UN which are acceptable all around .

Q. Do you think there is an advantage if the debate is adjourned?

Mr Hayden I don'tknow what the advantages are. All I know is that the best prospects rest in the continuation of the actions which have been taken by the Secretary General of the United Nations. As to what should be decided at the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations, that's something that we've got assess after broader discussion .

Q. Do you have a conflict of international boundaries ~~armories~~ with Indonesia regarding oil fields in East

Timor ~~network~~ platform. Has that matter been discussed with the Portuguese authorities?

Mr Hayden I wouldn't say we had a conflict. We have a need to resolve a definition of the boundary in important areas. There are some gaps in it. They represent areas where the definition of boundaries ~~haven't~~ been concluded in past negotiations. We've sought to negotiate on the subject with the Indonesians. At this point they're pre-occupied with similar negotiations with Vietnam and because of a technical demand on specialist staff are unlikely to stgart discussion with us in the near future. I would n't prpose to discuss that point publicly beyond that.

Q. Did you discuss the problem of the sea frontiers with the Portuguese Prime Minister?

Mr Hayden The which?

Q. The problem of the sea frontiers between East Timor and Australia.

Mr Hayden Well I have just explained that this is a matter which ought to be discussed with the Indonesians because of the demands on them of their technical staff required in negotiations with Vietnam. I don't see those talks starting in the immediate future between Australia and Indonesia and I wouldn't propose to discuss the matter beyond that.

This is a complete contradiction of yesterday with PSE! etc..

Q. The Indonesian Foreign ~~for~~ Minister just said that he shouldn't like the Australia ~~for~~ Foreign Minister to mediate on the question of East Timor . Are you sort of mediating or do you want to comment on this declaration?

Mr Hayden I've never suggested that Australia would seek to mediate. Australia has understandable interest and sometimes concern on this issue. Our nearest neighbour and a very important regional neighbour of Australia's is Indonesia so we seek always to try to have a constructive relationship with her.

Q. What's the position of Australia about Timor?

Mr Hayden We have been keen to see that there be some resolution of the difficulties which have arisen on the issue of East Timor. As a consequence of that I'm here talking to the Portuguese government ~~on the~~ matter on which we share concern although our attitudes may in some important respects be at variance and it's matter that we frequently discuss with Indonesia ~~and~~ the UN and beyond that I wouldn't propose to say any more at this stage.

Q. Thank you, Minister.

Interviews with Australian Radio ~~and~~ Television Reporters, Lisbon, 7 September 1984

Q. Mr Hayden, what do you know today that you did't know yesterday before you got here?

Mr Hayden Well I think a great deal but not the sorts of things one could discuss publicly. What I would say is that I have a far better understanding of the Portuguese position which I believe is one that's evolving and that I'm somewhat encouraged by my discussions but there's going to be a lot more talk required.

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Q. In reality are you any closer to a settlement as a result of this visit?

Mr Hayden . I think the possibility of a better common ground for understanding has been much improved as a result of the Portuguese thinking on this matter but I can't speak for them. That's for them to do. I'll certainly be discussing the matter with the Secretary General of the UN in New York when I get there soon, and with Dr Mochtar the Foreign Minister for Indonesia. But I want to make it clear that our role in this is as a party, a principal party with concern in this matter, as is understandable given some of the exchanges which have taken place between Australia and Indonesia publicly and privately on this matter. We are certainly not a mediator and we never propose to be in such a role.

Q. Mr Hayden, in clear practical terms, very simple terms what can be extracted from Indonesia by this process that they haven't given already?

Mr Hayden 'Absolutely nothing. If we are going to canvass issues publicly and certainly before any discussions take place with Gatt of the parties. In the fairly sensitive area of diplomatic relations it's best that discussion take place privately in the first instance to see whether thee is an improvement in understanding about what common ground can be and I wouldn't care to say any more than that.

Q. Are you any more optimistic than you

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were before your arrival here in Portugal?

Mr Hayden Well I'll put you back to my answer I gave you a few minutes ago.

Q. You say the Portuguese position is evolving. Can you say in what direction?

Mr Hayden As I said the Portuguese position is the product of some evolution but it's best for you to talk to the Portuguese to find out what they want to say ~~particularly~~ on this matter. They do fundamentally have a constitutional requirement which guides ~~the~~ thinking on this issue. I'm sorry I can't discuss the matter in any more detail than that publicly. This is the first of many rounds ~~of many rounds~~ of discussions which will take place between principal parties concerned in this matter. We happen to be a principal party at will Some concern in this matter as is quite evident, from the debate which is taking place in Australia on this issue, particularly within the Labor Party, our policy resolutions on this matter, the obligations they impose on us and the sorts of discussions which have taken place, some of them publicly, and others privately between us and Indonesia.

Q. Did you get the same message from the President and the Foreign Minister or do you have to sort of put them together as a composite?

Mr Hayden The President and the Foreign Minister hinted at busy future contacts

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seem to me to be pretty much on the same sort of wave length but again you'll have to talk to the Portuguese if you want to know what they have to say or ~~which~~ wish to say publicly. I can't speak for them. I speak for Australia.

Q. How does our role in this kind of diplomacy compare with our role in say Kampuchea, then?

Mr Hayden I make a distinction between the two . They are completely different issues. We have a major direct issue in this matter as is quite evident from the debate which has taken place in Australia. The exchanges which have taken place between us and Indonesia and the fact that I'm discussing this matter with Portugal at the moment.

Q. So, if I can ask you the same question I asked you yesterday - does it seem to you likely that the United Nations debate will go ahead this year?

Mr Hayden I have absolutely no idea what the conclusion will be on the United Nations discussion on this matter. What I do believe is that if the matter is going to be resolved, then the initiatives that have been put under way by the Secretary General, their further elaboration in a way which is acceptable to all parties, represents the best prospect for some sort of resolution of the diffeences on this matter. But that's all I can say, publicly, except to restate which I said a few minutes ago, Australia is not a mediator in this istuation and never sought to be, would never

propose to be for many reasons, not the least of which is we are a party with a principal interest in this matter.